

As a former journalism teacher who now earns a living in public relations, I know the power of the printed and broadcast word. It's with much dismay that I have watched the consolidation of our media over the past 10 years. A free press is essential to a vital, healthy democracy. Maybe the increasing control of the media is one reason why our democracy is polarized and sick.

One example of this is Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. I am appalled!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, and forcefeed their political views to communities across the nation, we get good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Concentrated ownership of the media will surely lead to the downfall of democracy. Keep America strong! Fulfill your role! Thank you.